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building the prison officers had stowed a large quantity of splendid, large, North Carolina sweet potatoes. About the third day after the prisoners had been placed in the building it was noticed that the potatoes were disappearing at the rate of about a bushel a day. At first it was thought that the rats had taken them, but a second thought showed that the idea was absurd. Sentinels were posted around the building, with orders to shoot any man caught stealing those potatoes; but they didn't see anybody to shoot, and, although they were posted there day and night, and no one was allowed to enter the room in which the potatoes were kept, they still continued to disappear. These potatoes at that time were considered luxuries, and the Confederate officers were nearly wild with rage at their repeated losses. The doors and windows of the room were sealed, and private marks were put on the wax. The next morning the officers went into the room. The wax was all right, but another bushel of potatoes had vanished! It was the maddest crowd you ever saw. They locked me in, and a lighted candle was put at each end of the room so that I could see. I was ordered to shoot on sight anybody that I saw stealing those yams. I was terribly homesick in that room. Just as fast as I would light one candle and go to the other end of the room to light the other, the rats would eat the first one down. They were regular Confederate rats, and a candle was a godsend to them. About midnight I heard a crackling, grating noise. I cocked my gun and listened. The noise ceased; I could see nothing but the rats, and I began to think that the place was haunted. Presently the noise occurred again. I looked at the pile of potatoes, and presently saw something shoot from the ceiling and fall on them. I saw it was a briar, and could distinguish a spined tip to it. I crept a little nearer to get a good look at the thing, but before I could examine it, it was drawn slowly up, and there was about a peck of potatoes tickling to it. It went up through a hole which had been cut in the floor above, and presently came down again with a thump right among the potatoes. It was the most artful arrangement you ever saw. The briar had about fifty holes drilled in it, and through each hole a sharpened ten-penny nail had been run, so that when the briar fell among the potatoes these nails stuck into every one they fell on. I couldn't help laughing at the smart dodge these Yankees had taken. I gently put my hand forward and caught hold of the briar. Pretty soon they began to draw on, and when it did not move I heard one fellow say: "Steady, boys; the briar's hung in something." Pull her steadily without jerking! They did pull steadily, and jerkily lifted me from the floor. "No er; easy boys," the director said, and then they tugged away. I got pretty red as the face holding to the rope. I was afraid to let go, because I thought some of those spiked nails might strike me in passing. I thought of my pocket-knife and hauled it out just as they were putting it their weight on the other end of the briar. I cut it in two, and the end shot back through the hole just like a terpen, and it was as still as death up there. I hated to tell on them, because it was such a sharp scheme of foraging on the enemy, but I had to. When the officers went up the next morning to examine the room it took a long time to find the hole. Those Yankees had cut a hole about a foot square through the floor, and it was done so neatly that it took good eyes to discover it."

Marriage in Albania.

Albanian marriage arrangements are very peculiar. When a damsel arrives at marriageable age her parents publish the fact among their friends and acquaintances. Should no suitor come forward, it rests with her brothers to find one. A brother thus circumstanced will sometimes come up to a male friend in the street and make the complimentary proposal then and there. "You are just the man I wanted to see;" —thus goes the abrupt formula on these occasions: "my sister is now fourteen years old; you must marry her." As etiquette forbids a plump refusal, the gentleman thus honored gives a sort of half assent, and then hurries off to instruct some old lady to act as go-between. Should he be satisfied with the report made, after due inquiry, by this adviser, the wedding is arranged; but not until the very last moment is the expectant bridegroom allowed to see his future spouse, and then it would be contrary to the prescriptions of society for him to draw back, however unpossessing she might prove to be. After the performance of the ceremony a very curious piece of etiquette comes into play. Among Asiatic and uncivilized people generally, it is the rule for the bride-elect to feign coyness, but among the Greeks the bridegroom has to make this pretense. After the marriage feast is over, and the newly-made wife has withdrawn, her husband lingers behind, and not until he has been subjected to a variety of rough usage by her relatives are the prescriptions of etiquette considered to be sufficiently complied with to admit of his following the lady.

A BEAUTIFUL SENTIMENT.—When a Hindu priest is about to baptize an infant, he utters the following beautiful sentiment: "Little babe, thou entered the world while all around thee smile; continue so to live that thou mayest depart in smiles while all around thee weep."

A TOAST—"THE PRESS."—It expresses truth, represses error, impresses knowledge, de-represents tyranny, and oppresses none.

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